

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

March 1, 2005

(status through February 28, prepared March 3)

TOTAL POPULATION

242

CAPTIVE POPULATION

132

Los Angeles Zoo	25
San Diego WAP	26
WCBP Boise	44
Oregon Zoo	13
Mentor birds in field pens	3
Pre-release birds in field pens	21
Southern California	0
Central California	4
Baja California	3
Arizona	14

WILD POPULATION

110

California	54
Southern California-released birds	
Flying	20
Central California-released birds	
Flying	25
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	8
Flying, wild-fledged	1
Baja California	7
Flying	0
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	7
Arizona	49
Flying, from releases	46
Flying, wild-fledged	3
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0

Changes in February:

Arizona – 3 juveniles released Feb. 4

Southern California – 4 pre-release birds transferred from the Hopper Refuge holding pen to the Pinnacles release pen.

Central California – 3 recaptured young birds transferred to Arizona for re-release; 4 pre-release birds transferred in from So. Calif. holding pen to Pinnacles release pen.

Baja California – SB #279, a nearly 3-yr-old male missing since November, is presumed dead. Remaining wild birds are being temporarily held in the flight pen for transmitter replacements.

Eggs laid in 2005:

Los Angeles Zoo – 4 laid, incubating

San Diego WAP – 5 laid, incubating

WCBP Boise – 10 laid: 1 broken, 9 incubating

Oregon Zoo – 1 laid, incubating

California Department of Fish and Game
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hcpb/species/t_e_spp/tebird/Condor%20Pop%20Stat.pdf

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Los Angeles Zoo	25	
San Diego WAP	26	
WCBP Boise	44	
Oregon Zoo	13	
Mentor birds in field pens	3	(SB# 36 in So. CA, # 63 in Centr. CA; # 64 in Baja CA)
Pre-release birds in field pens	21	
Southern California	0	
Central California	4	(SB# 330, 335, 336, 345)
Baja California	3	(SB# 315, 319, 320)
Arizona	14	(SB# 266, 270, 287, 324, 327, 329, 331, 337, 343, 346, 347, 349, 352, 353)

WILD POPULATION

110

California		54
Southern California-released birds		
Flying	20	
Central California-released birds		
Flying	25	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	8	(SB# 265, 278, 294, 298, 301, 303, 311, 318)
Flying, wild-fledged	1	
Baja California		7
Flying	0	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	7	
Arizona		49
Flying, from releases	46	
Flying, wild-fledged	3	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	

Changes in February:

Arizona – 3 juveniles released at Vermilion Cliffs Feb. 4 (SB# 297, 302, 314)

Southern California – 4 pre-release birds transferred from the Hopper Refuge holding pen to the Pinnacles release pen.

Central California – 3 recaptured young birds (SB# 266, 270, 287) transferred Feb. 15 to Arizona holding pen for planned re-release in spring. 4 pre-release birds (SB# 330, 335, 336, 345) transferred in early Feb. from So. Calif. holding pens to Pinnacles release pen for release in spring.

Baja California – SB# 279, a nearly 3-yr-old male missing since November is presumed dead.

All 7 remaining wild birds are being held temporarily in the flight pen for older radio telemetry equipment to be replaced by new GPS transmitters.

Eggs laid in 2005:

Los Angeles Zoo – 4 laid, all fertile and incubating

San Diego WAP – 5 laid, all fertile and incubating

WCBP Boise – 10 laid: 1 broken, 9 incubating: 5 fertile, 4 unknown

Oregon Zoo – 1 laid, incubating

Wild Population Statistics, March 1, 2005

Releases:

1988-92: So. CA – 15 Andean condors released, 1 died, 14 recaptured and released in South America

1992-95: So. CA – 13 California condors released in 1992-93: 6 died, 7 returned to captivity permanently

1995 – 2005 (through February):

California Condors Released

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
California	14	8	12	0	13	9	10	14	5*	14*	0	99*
Baja CA							0	3	2	3	0	8
Arizona	0	6	13	9	7	12	0	11	7	8	3	76
TOTAL	14	14	25	9	20	21	10	28	14*	26*	0	183*

*excludes three birds initially released in California in winter 2003-04, recaptured for behavioral reasons 9-10 months after release, and now held for release into the Arizona population in early 2005.

Released-bird Deaths

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
California	0	2	3	3	6	5	4	3	9	0	0	35
Baja CA								0	0	1	0	1
Arizona		0	3	2	1	11	1	4	1	2	2	27
TOTAL	0	2	6	5	7	16	5	7	10	3	2	63

Returned to Captivity Permanently, Indefinitely, or for Extended Treatment or Rehabilitation

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
California	1	0	4	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	11
Baja CA								0	0	0	0	0
Arizona		0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	1	0	4	0	3	3	0	2	1	0	0	14

Wild Population Trend

Population Size on July 1

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
CALIFORNIA										
Birds from releases	6	17	16	23	29	30	32	36	41	44
Wild nestlings								3	1	3
Total	6	17	16	23	29	30	32	39	42	47
ARIZONA										
Birds from releases			13	16	21	20	26	32	36	43
Wild nestlings									1	2
Wild-fledged birds										1
Total			13	16	21	20	26	32	37	46
BAJA CA										
Birds from releases									5	5
TOTAL	6	17	29	39	50	50	58	71	84	98

Wild Production, 2001- 2004

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, California: **2*** in 2001; **3** in 2002; **1** in 2003; **3** in 2004 (*one trio with 2 eggs)

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, Arizona: **1** in 2001; **2** in 2002; **3** in 2003; **2** in 2004

Of **18** wild-laid eggs, **1** hatched in captivity and was released to the wild, **10** hatched in the wild (fate of nestlings: 4 fledged, 1 in rehab, 5 died), and **7** eggs failed (broken, died, or fate unknown)

Explanatory Notes

Numbers reported in the monthly status report should be treated as tentative data. These are based on the best information available each month from cooperators in the field and facilities. If a reporting error is discovered after posting online, no correction will be disseminated, unless the error is substantive. Occasionally, a missing bird will continue to be reported live each month until field personnel are satisfied that there is little likelihood it is still alive. For such individuals, the date last detected normally is presumed to be the date of death. Questions about these data should be directed to Ron Jurek, CDFG, 916-654-4267.

SB# - Condor Studbook number

"CAPTIVE POPULATION" includes:

- birds captured from the wild prior to 1988 that are still in a captive facility (e.g., zoo)
- previously released birds returned to captivity permanently or for care and possible re-release
- surviving chicks and juveniles (excludes eggs laid)
- captive-hatched birds retained for captive breeding
- young birds held in breeding facilities in preparation for transfer to a field pen for release
- "mentor birds" from a captive facility transferred temporarily into a field pen to aid socialization of pre-release birds
- birds transferred from a captive facility to a field pen in preparation for initial release or re-release
- LAZ is Los Angeles Zoo; WAP is Wild Animal Park, Zoological Society of San Diego; WCBP is World Center for Birds of Prey, The Peregrine Fund

"WILD POPULATION" includes:

- free-flying birds recently accounted for
- free-flying birds, assumed to be alive, although not recently accounted for
- nestlings in wild nests
- temporarily re-captured wild birds, held in a field pen, that are intended to be re-released soon

"So. Calif." refers to birds originally released at sites from San Luis Obispo County to Ventura County by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Birds released in the two California release areas now freely intermingle.

"Central Calif." refers to birds originally released at sites north of San Luis Obispo County by the Ventana Wilderness Society. Birds released in the two California release areas now freely intermingle.

"Baja Calif." refers to birds originally released in Baja California, Mexico, by the Zoological Society of San Diego, the Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, and the Instituto Nacional de Ecología.

"Arizona" refers to birds released by The Peregrine Fund in Arizona and several other states east of Calif.

Mortalities requiring law enforcement investigation often will not be publicly reported immediately.